DISCUSSIONS OF NEW BOOKS

THE DREAM THAT WAS LOST

By Albert Guérard

EVERY one of these four books could be entitled "The Dream We Lost." It was a great dream. To every man and nation comes the choice: selfish greed or brotherliness; these four writers chose the more arduous, the less conventional path. They had their place reserved among the profiteers, and they spurned it. This resolve may be called socialism; it might as well be named the Christian spirit: love thy neighbor; or again, the sense of honor: *noblesse oblige*. No self-respecting man can feast with an easy conscience while others starve; least of all can he bring himself to believe that feasting is a just reward, starving a just punishment. Praise be to God that he created *Man*, and not *Homo Economicus*.

Perhaps Freda Utley has given up that noble dream. She seems to have relapsed into Chamberlainism pure and simple, and to have accepted the profit motive at its most Coolidgean. Life has dealt harshly with her, and we shall refrain from judging. The other three have remained true to their essential faith. What all four have lost is an earthly hope: the belief that Marxism could magically create a millennium, and that such a millennium had actually begun in Russia twenty-four years ago.

The Dream We Lost: Soviet Russia Then and Now. By Freda Utley. New York: The John Day Company. $2.75. *Reason, Social Myths, and Democracy.* By Sidney Hook. New York: The John Day Company. $3.00. *Marxism: Is It Science?* By Max Eastman. New York: W. W. Norton. $3.00. *To the Finland Station: A Study in the Writing and Acting of History.* By Edmund Wilson. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company. $4.00.

Copyright (c) 2000 Bell & Howell Information and Learning Company
Copyright (c) University of Virginia